

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A feed pipe coupling for a pressurised fluid system, of the type in which a connector includes a head which is adapted to be received axially in a body of a feed inlet, and of the type in which the connector is arranged to be locked in a forward position in which it is engaged axially in the body of the feed inlet by at least one locking spring clip having a generally U-shaped form comprising two branches which are generally parallel to each other and oriented generally transversely, at right angles to the axis, together with a central connecting branch, wherein at least one of the transverse branches includes a locking portion which is received at least partly in a radial groove in the head of the connector, wherein the branch of the spring clip that has the locking portion is configured in the general form of a hairpin and includes a radially internal, locking, first branch portion, of which the locking portion is a part, together with a radially external, connecting, second branch portion which is connected at each of its ends, firstly to the operational locking branch portion through a bent connecting portion, and secondly, to the central connecting branch of the spring clip, whereby to confer on the locking branch a capacity for elastic deformation in the general transverse plane of the spring clip.
2. A coupling according to Claim 1, wherein the spring clip has a general symmetry of design with relation to a bisecting axial plane which is at right angles to the general plane of the spring clip.
3. A coupling according to Claim 1, wherein unlocking between the connector and body, with a view to permitting at least partial rearward axial disengagement of the connector out of the body, is obtained by elastic deformation of the branches of the spring clip resulting from mating cooperation between at least a part of the locking branch portion of each branch and at least a portion of the body, under the action of a release

force which is applied in a transverse direction on the central connecting branch of the spring clip.

4. A coupling according to Claim 3, wherein the elastic deformation of the branches of the spring clip causes radial outward displacement of the locking branch portion in a direction substantially at right angles to the said branch portion.
5. A coupling according to Claim 3, wherein the transverse release force exerted on the central connecting branch is a tractive force.
6. A coupling according to Claim 3, wherein the transverse release force exerted on the central connecting portion is a thrust force.
7. A coupling according to Claim 6, wherein the body includes, in facing relationship with the central connecting branch stop means for limiting the displacement of the spring clip during application of the transverse release force.
- 15 8. A coupling according to Claim 1, wherein the locking portion is configured generally as an arc of a circle, the concavity of which is oriented towards the axis in such a way as to cooperate with a frusto-conical portion of the head of the connector during its axial introduction into the body.
- 20 9. A coupling according to Claim 1, wherein the spring clip is mounted on the body, in such a way that it cannot be lost, by means of stop means included in the body, which cooperate with the free end of at least one of the locking branch portions.
- 25 10. A coupling according to Claim 9, wherein the body has a seating, the abutment base of which lies facing the free end of the locking branch portion, the seating being open laterally for engagement of the said end in the seating during fitting of the spring clip on the body.

11. A coupling according to Claim 10, wherein the seating is formed in a portion which projects with respect to the outer surface of the body, whereby to permit access to the free end of the locking branch portion for its extraction out of the seating with a view to taking out the spring clip, in particular with the aid of a tool.
12. A coupling according to Claim 1, of the type in which the body of the feed inlet includes a purging port, and of the type in which at least one sealing ring is arranged between the head of the connector and the feed inlet, wherein in the engaged position, the connector obturates the purging port sealingly, and in that the connector is able to occupy a position in which it is retracted partially axially towards the rear, and in which the feed inlet is put into communication sealingly with the purging port.